

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Surfing on crumpets since 1911.

Tuesday, October 15, 1991

City confiscates Overdale developers' deposit

by Peter Clibbon

Overdale St. was once lined with some of the downtown area's last low-rental buildings. Now, it is a parking lot. One hundred and seven apartment units were destroyed for a luxury condo project in 1987.

But in a surprising development last week, the controversial agreement in which the city gave developers permission to develop Overdale collapsed.

The city seized a \$200 000 deposit last Thursday from developers Robert Landau and Douglas Cohen. The agreement between the city and developers specified a two-year period for commencing construction of the "Galleria Dorchester" condo project.

But Landau and Cohen never got around to building condos on Overdale, forfeiting their deposit.

The failed deal has shocked housing rights activists.

"The seizure of the deposit demonstrates how futile the whole tragedy is," said former city councillor Arnold Bennett, a housing rights worker.

The condo development destroyed a closely-knit community of students and working-class people who lived on the formerly tree-lined street. Residents were eventually evicted by riot police after an 18-month legal struggle and a brief illegal occupation of the buildings by the residents.

"The city got sucked into this

mess by the developers who, from the beginning, didn't have a viable plan for the area," Bennett said.

The city's decision to seize the deposit comes as a victory to housing activist group Front Populaire en Réaménagement Urbain (FRAPRU), which threatened the city with legal action in September to force the seizure of the deposit.

FRAPRU denounced the "developers' obvious bad faith" in a statement issued last week, and charged that the city was a "passive accomplice" in what it called an "enormous speculative operation."

The municipal government approved its Master Plan in 1989, creating zoning districts for Montréal's downtown, two years after the Overdale deal. Now, developers must get approval from City Council for construction of buildings over four stories in height.

"In the Master Plan, all small residential districts downtown are protected," said Bennett.

"A project similar to Overdale would not be tolerated today. There's a new climate."

Bennett said tenants at the Anderson co-operative, another low-rent district downtown, succeeded in testing the new zoning law, and won.

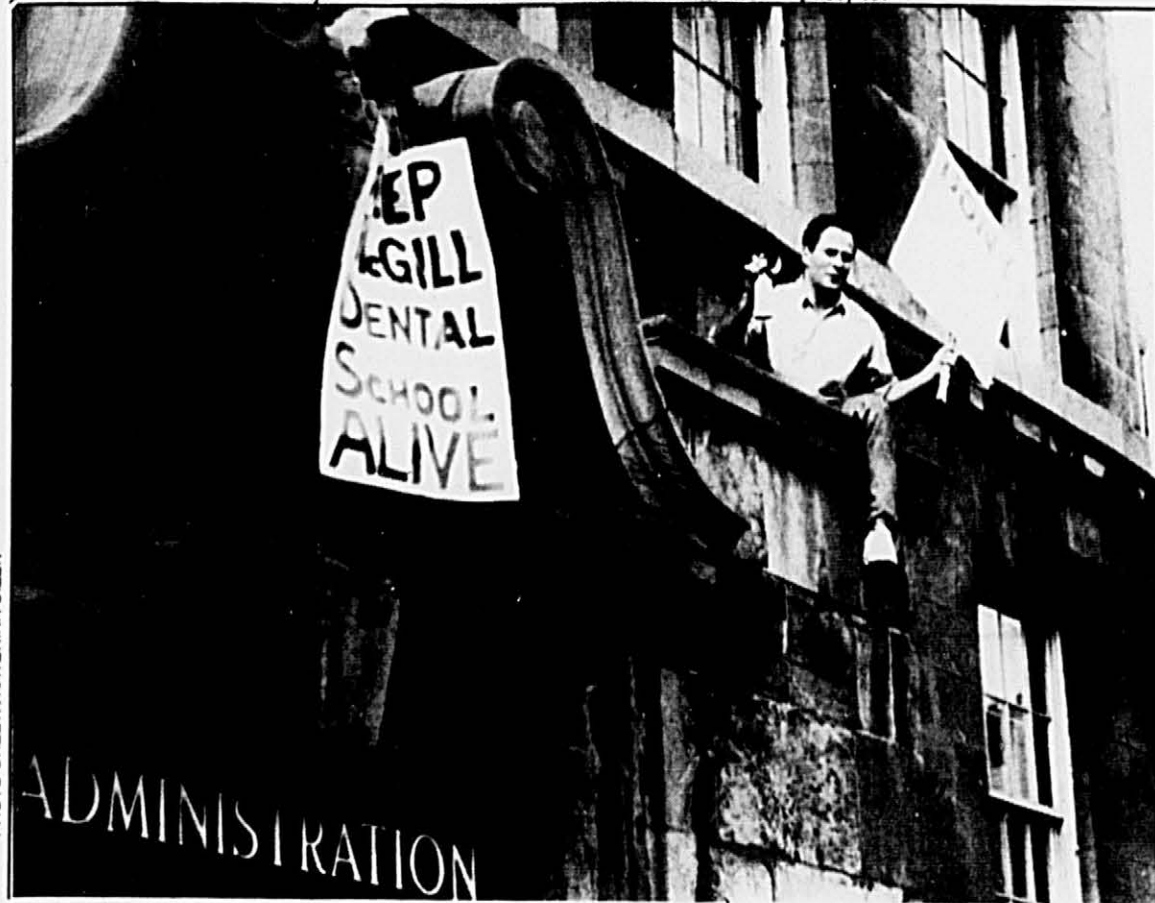
"Anderson is similar to Overdale, and the city is now renovating their co-op with public money. A private development will eventually be built on the rest of their lot."

André Lavallée, a member of the powerful City Council's executive committee, said Thursday that city hall would also reclaim an alley adjacent to Overdale St. The alley was

originally ceded to the developers for the condo project. Without the alley, the developers' lot is divided into two.

Bennett said that unless the de-

velopers return with plans respecting existing zoning laws, the lot will just sit as a "perpetual reminder of a disaster the city didn't have to be party to."



Dentistry student blows his horn on top of James administration building.

Profs warn of future cuts

by Susan Vivian

Dentistry professors defended their faculty last Tuesday and warned that other departments could be closed in the near future.

"I am warning everybody of the potential closure of one third of the university," said Professor Smith, Dentistry associate dean of research.

The university has set a standard for dentistry requiring each professor to bring in \$50 000 a year in research grants and publishing, Smith said. But many professors in the university bring in less than that amount.

The Task Force on Priorities adopted by the university last year requires that faculty members concentrate on research and acquiring grants. However, it does not give specific sums that should be raised.

"Three years from now the university may want \$100 000 from each professor, because there are no checks and balances in the Task Force to prevent this possibility," Smith said.

Dentistry faculty and students responded to the arguments raised by the work group at the earlier meeting. They said that their research program was appropriate; their importance to the Montréal community was profound; their degree granting capability is not in danger; the demand for dentists is not declining; and that their operation costs were lower than dentistry

faculties in other Canadian universities.

The university claimed the dentistry faculty does not produce enough PhDs. But Smith said the university's expectations are not reasonable.

"After obtaining the initial degree, the best option for a student is a specialist program, not a PhD," he said. Most PhD programs taken by dentists are within anatomy or medicine.

The university work group claimed the dentistry faculty has not shown sufficient effort in seeking grants. But dentistry dean Ralph Barolet said that over the past five years, dentistry has acquired over \$2 million from national grant agencies, without help from McGill.

Two years ago the faculty arranged a provincial grant, but due to "Lack of cooperation from the university administration," a necessary signature was never obtained and the grant was lost. Even last week, a dentistry professor went to the administration to get in on a McGill "float" program and was turned down on the grounds that "The faculty is closing."

In response to university demands for post-graduate programs, the dentistry faculty proposed three new masters programs in dentistry. Their proposed programs for geriatric and handicapped patients would be unique in Canada.

Dr. Katz, faculty head at the

Montréal General Hospital insisted that a "Large number of people that will be abandoned" if the faculty closes. "It appears that the Task Force commitment to the community is not binding," he said.

Katz said children from remote areas, aboriginal children and the mentally handicapped would be among those left untreated.

Katz also said the faculty's closure would threaten the university's funding drive.

"The abandonment of a significant portion of the population would no doubt reflect negatively on the university's \$200 million fundraising campaign," he said.

The university work group claimed dentistry would lose its accreditation from the Canadian Dentistry Association (CDA) as a result of its outmoded facilities. If accreditation is lost, dentistry would be unable to grant degrees.

But Professor Warshawsky said only five dental schools in Canada have full accreditation status. Those schools without full accreditation include Université de Montréal, Université de Laval, and U of T, which has not had full status for over 15 years. Typically, temporary CDA accreditation is only used to pressure universities to modernize facilities, Warshawsky said.

The committee will decide on whether to accept the proposal for closure in a closed meeting on November 5th.

Fourth sexual assault at Pine and Park

by Kristen Hutchinson

Another woman was assaulted during daylight hours at the Parc-Pins intersection last Thursday.

This is the fourth in a series of assaults that have occurred during the last three weeks at exactly the same place. All have taken place between 16h00 and 17h30 in the afternoon.

The McGill Walk Safe Network is warning women not to go through the Parc-Pins intersection at any time.

"There are a lot of other areas in Montréal with the same characteristics as the Pins-Parc intersection," said Kelly Gallagher-Mackay.

"These areas can be just as dangerous."

The intersection is a complicated series of over and underpasses, with some of the pedestrian walkways turning into short tunnels.

The tunnels have only two entrances, and this makes movement within them very predictable, Gallagher-Mackay said. Despite a high volume of traffic, these areas are still hazardous.

Many of the tunnels are not vis-

ible from the road, especially at night. There are no phones to call for help, and most of the area is completely unlit.

One woman was walking up Pins at 17h15 in broad daylight. As she passed the assailant he grabbed her. Oncoming traffic might have stopped him from chasing her.

Two of the four women described their assailant as approximately five feet, ten inches tall, with a dark complexion and black hair, possibly East Indian.

One woman did not see the assailant. The other woman has not contacted the Walk Safe Network.

"It is possible that many other assaults took place in the area," said Gallagher-Mackay.

In general, few sexual assaults are reported. Studies show only one in 10 sexual assaults are brought to the police.

Gallagher-Mackay has suggestions for defense in case of attack. Yell in a deep voice to attract the attention of passersby. People tend not to respond to high-pitched screams.

It is important to use specific

continued on page 8

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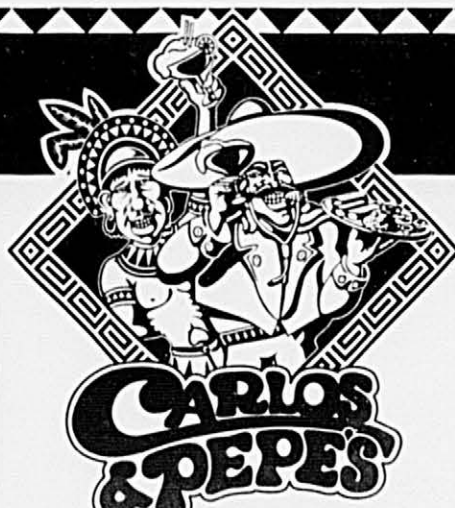
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Communauté ethniques et policiers.

Création d'un centre d'information

Julie Meunier

Enfin un centre canadien est établi à Ottawa afin d'établir de meilleures relations entre les policiers et les minorités ethniques ainsi que les groupes autochtones.

L'ouverture du centre a été annoncée par le solliciteur général, l'honorable Doug Lewis, lors de l'assemblée annuelle du « Canadian association of chiefs of police » (CACP), qui se tenait en août dernier.

Depuis le début des années 1980, et plus particulièrement depuis l'affaire Gosset-Griffin en 1987, les relations inter-raciales se détériorent au pays. Le besoin d'établir un centre devenait de plus en plus urgent. En effet, nous ne pouvions plus faire abstraction de la société multi-culturelle dans laquelle nous vivons.

Bien que le centre soit un projet en démonstration, fondé principalement par le solliciteur général incluant la Gendarmerie royale du Canada, il est important qu'on l'exploite en fonction des besoins de la clientèle visée.

Toutefois, il faut rendre compte que le centre n'en est qu'à ses débuts, ayant à son effectif que cinq employés. Il prendra de l'ampleur en fonction du nombre de clients l'utilisant et à mesure que les ressources disponibles accroîtront. On attend éventuellement l'appui du secteur privé et des gouvernements provinciaux.

L'instauration du Centre canadien pour les relations inter-raciales de la police pourrait éviter des incidents comme celui de Marcelus François, tué par erreur lors d'une filature l'été dernier.

Le centre représentera deux partenaires stratégiques : d'abord une association fédérale-provinciale et une association comprenant la police, les minorités visibles, les groupes autochtones et toutes organisations concernées.

Son but premier sera l'avancement et une promotion positive des relations entre les races. Ses principaux objectifs seront d'offrir toutes les informations disponibles concernant les relations inter-raciales, de les développer et de les analyser. Des experts seront également disponibles pour donner des conseils à ce sujet.

Au niveau pratique, le Centre sera chargé d'établir de nouvelles politiques et de nouvelles procédures pour la sélection, le recrutement, l'évaluation de la performance ainsi que l'avancement de la carrière des officiers de police.

Il devra également faire un entraînement inter-culturel et antiraciste pour tous les officiers de police, incluant la prévention des incidents raciaux et d'une gestion efficace. De plus, il devra établir des liaisons, des consultations et rassembler des mécanismes entre la police, les minorités visibles, la clientèle autochtone et les communautés diverses.

Déjà, en octobre 1989, un centre

fut proposé sous un « plan d'action national », par le ministre de l'État pour le multiculturalisme et la citoyenneté. Le concept du centre canadien pour les relations inter-raciales de la police, a été reçu et appuyé par les gouvernements provinciaux, les organisations de minorités ethniques ainsi que la com-

munité policière. Les buts étaient les mêmes que ceux mentionnés précédemment.

Curieusement, la plupart des organisations pour les minorités, ainsi que les organismes gouvernementaux, n'étaient pas au courant de l'ouverture du centre à Ottawa mais n'ignoraient pas qu'une as-

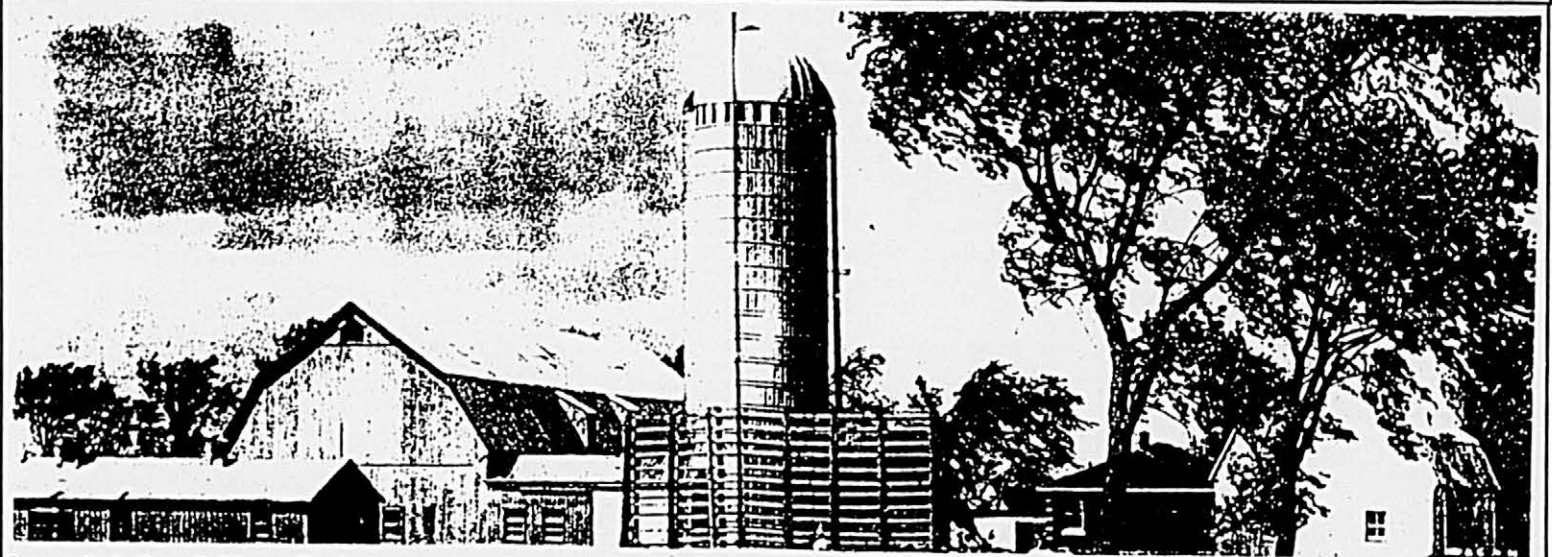
semblée ait eu lieu le 13 octobre 1989.

Serait-ce le manque d'intérêt que porte le gouvernement fédéral en ce qui concerne la promotion du centre? Ce serait dommage, puisque ce centre, ouvert à toute personne ayant besoin d'informations, cherche à desservir les minorités visibles et

devrait avant tout être publicisé auprès de ceux-ci, ainsi que le public en général.

N'oublions pas que le Centre donne de l'information sur les relations inter-raciales à tous. Son but n'est pas de régler les crises actuelles impliquant la Police et les minorités ethniques.

Biotechnologies: Nouvelle menace pour le Tiers-Monde?



Le manipulation génétique: Ce n'est pas sur une ferme nord-américaine comme celle-là.

Paul Batik

Les biotechnologies apparaissent aujourd'hui comme un des principaux agents contribuant à une accélération du rythme des transformations du système économique global. Les pays du Tiers-Monde faibles économiquement risquent d'être une fois encore victimes de cette nouvelle vague de progrès.

Les biotechnologies ne sont pas sans promesses pour les pays de la périphérie: le niveau relativement peu élevé des coûts d'investissement et l'aspect décentralisé de ces nouvelles technologies présentent des opportunités importantes pour le développement de ces pays. L'exemple que l'on peut citer le plus spontanément est l'agriculture, responsable de la majeure partie du produit intérieur brut de ces pays.

Il ne faut cependant pas avoir d'illusions sur ce potentiel de changement. La formation de scientifiques et d'ingénieurs dans les sciences nouvelles pourrait amener des progrès rapides dans un cadre institutionnel favorable. Malheureusement, dans un pays comme le Nigeria 80% des personnes avec une formation dans les biotechnologies se sont retrouvées avec des postes dans la bureaucratie car elles avaient été mal orientées dans leur formation et ne trouvaient pas d'opportunités pour appliquer leurs connaissances.

Mais les biotechnologies présentent aussi de terribles menaces pour les pays du Tiers-Monde, tout d'abord celui de radicalement bouleverser les économies productrices de matières premières. Les nouvelles espèces de cacao pour-

rait rendre des nouveaux producteurs dans les pays d'Asie comme la Malaisie plus compétitifs que les producteurs d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Les exportateurs de sucre pourraient voir leur marché disparaître avec la croissance de la production des édulcorants synthétisés dans les laboratoires des pays industrialisés.

D'autres menaces encore sont liées à un resserrement du système international des brevets et à la possibilité que des corporations imposent aux agriculteurs du sud des contrats globaux incorporant de nouvelles graines avec des pesticides et des fertilisants spécifiques. On verrait ainsi apparaître de nouvelles relations de dépendance technologique semblables à celles induites par la révolution verte.

Des spécialistes du développement et des dirigeants du Tiers-Monde se sont réunis récemment à Nairobi pour discuter d'une stratégie qui permettrait aux communautés du sud de faire valoir leur droit de propriété sur la matière génétique contenue dans les plantes et les animaux indigènes. En effet, la matière première nécessaire aux chercheurs du nord est principalement trouvée dans la grande diversité génétique des régions tropicales du globe.

Actuellement, les gens du sud doivent parfois payer des sommes exorbitantes pour des produits médicaux ou des graines, dont les composantes génétiques de bases avaient été gratuitement prélevées dans leur propre région. L'établissement d'accords de réciprocité des droits entre propriétaires de la matière génétique brute et entrepri-

ses biotechnologiques ayant créé le produit final demanderait une remise en question du système des brevets tel qu'il est conçu actuellement.

Ceci ne plaira sûrement pas aux industriels et aux marchands, et dans la situation économique et politique présente, il paraît difficile que les pays du Tiers-Monde réussissent à établir un réel contrôle sur l'extraction des espèces originales de leur faune et de leur flore.

La grande inquiétude pour de nombreux citoyens du Tiers-Monde aujourd'hui, c'est que leur pays soient utilisés comme champ d'expérimentation pour les nouveaux produits du génie génétique. Les risques importants concernant les bouleversements écologiques causés par l'introduction de nouvelles espèces agricoles ou les dangers d'épidémies inconnues résultant de la création des nouveaux médicaments a enclenché dans de nombreux pays industrialisés la mise en place d'un système élaboré de régulation encore très imparfait.

Les coûts importants demandés pour l'établissement d'un service d'évaluations environnementales, l'insuffisance de leur appareil législatif et judiciaire handicapent fortement les pays du sud pour l'établissement d'un système de contrôle similaire. Le pouvoir énorme des multinationales biotechnologiques met ainsi en péril l'intégrité d'états impuissants.

Ce péril n'est malheureusement pas de l'ordre de la science-fiction, la communauté scientifique et le public argentin sont là pour nous rappeler des événements de Juin 1986. Violant les lois argentines

sur l'importation d'organismes vivants, bafouant les autorités scientifiques et politiques du pays, les instituts Wistar et Meariux de Philadelphie ont secrètement testé un vaccin contre la rage à Azul, 250 kilomètres au sud de Buenos Aires.

Par l'intermédiaire d'une valise diplomatique, un virus créé par des manipulations de l'ADN d'un vaccin contre la petite vérole a été acheminé jusqu'à la station expérimentale de l'Organisation panaméricaine de la santé, un don du gouvernement argentin pour l'organisation. Le virus a alors été utilisé pour vacciner des bovins dans la station. Puis, le niveau d'anticorps des employés argentins venus traire les vaches a été mesuré pour déterminer si le virus était transmissible, ce qui était le cas. Cette opération a été effectuée à l'insu des employés argentins utilisés comme cobayes.

Le risque de déclencher une épidémie était assez limité, la modification génétique étant petite, mais justifiait néanmoins l'interdiction de pratiquer une telle expérience aux États-Unis. Dévoilée au grand jour par un étudiant accidentellement de passage dans la ferme, l'expérience a été mise à terme par la crémation des bovins contaminés sous l'attention de magistrats et de l'opinion publique argentine scandalisée.

De nombreux observateurs attendent la tenue de la conférence de l'ONU sur l'environnement et le développement au Brésil l'année prochaine avec l'espoir de voir s'établir un code de conduite international visant à prévenir les abus des biotechnologies.

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

silly little FEUQers

Whoever said Québec student politics is short of surprises?

Students have watched the slow growth of the Fédération Etudiante Universitaire de Québec, the student association McGill undergrads belong to. FEUQ has shocked and appalled many, from its birth two years ago during the protests against tuition fee increases, to its colloquium last week on the future of Québec universities.

But no one ever imagined that FEUQ president and de facto student "leader" Nicolas Plourde could be more conservative than the Conseil du Patronat, Québec's association for big business.

One business leader at last week's colloquium expressed concern that higher tuitions would threaten university accessibility. He even suggested Québec businesses might kick in with a special tax to pay for education.

But Plourde then declared that FEUQ would tolerate annual tuition fee increases, so that students could also "contribute their fair part."

FEUQ executives actually aligned themselves to the right of the rectors, principals, big business and government who have also called for increased tuition fees and decreased enrolments. FEUQ's position is a radical departure from the position of most other student associations in Canada and Québec — that tuition fees should be frozen.

But what is really stunning is FEUQ's naïve idea that the Québec government and corporations are actually going to chip in "their fair share," if only students would pay a bit more.

This mantra, lauded by FEUQ as the "new partnership" among students, state and corporate world, has been faithfully bleated for the past two years. Inevitably, the "new partnership" is destined to blow up in FEUQ's face.

This, after all, is the same Conseil du Patronat which called for massive boosts to tuition fees two years ago, supposedly for Québec to have universities comparable to American ones.

The very notion that students can negotiate from the same position of power as government and business is desperately flawed. And the role of student activists is not to ask for "partnership" in the elite groups that decide public policy, but to question their very existence.

Only two years ago, thousands of students across Québec went on strike for the principle of low or no tuition. Student solidarity was at an all-time high, and demonstrations occurred almost on a daily basis across the province. Some university and CEGEP administrators eventually threatened striking students with failing grades if they didn't return to class, but many students risked losing their academic year for the sake of accessible education.

But FEUQ members didn't strike, and they rarely marched. FEUQ executives declared their preference for "lobbying" and compromises with the government, instead of taking to the streets.

As long as FEUQ believes students are above marches, strikes — and basic principle — it is destined to lead us into similar "partnerships." To Québec students, such leadership amounts to betrayal.

Alex Roslin
Katerina Cizek

Peter Clibbon

LETTERS

Read the timetable

To the Daily:

Ellen Lackman's worries ("Concordia's example," October 3, 1991) concerning getting to classes on time should evaporate if she read the following extract from the McGill timetable booklet, page 2: "Time: from-to: Time at which course or section is given. Classes start five minutes after the scheduled starting time and finish five minutes before the scheduled end time in order to give students time to get from one class to another. Note that all classes are 50 minutes long unless specified."

May I also add that students will find much useful information in the "General Information and Regulations" section of the Undergraduate Programs Calendar.

Shirley Cahn, Biology Dept. Adviser

For the Pill

To the Daily:

The McGill Women's Union supports the inclusion of the birth control pill and the diaphragm in the proposed McGill Health Plan. There has been opposition that the Pill is rarely used in a therapeutic context. This is difficult to ascertain because it is almost impossible to distinguish between therapeutic use and birth control use of the Pill in women. The therapeutic benefits include regulation of the menses of which some results are shorter, less painful, and more dependable periods. Many women do not stop taking the Pill when they are not sexually active because of these benefits. The inclusion of the diaphragm in the Health Plan should also be promoted as a non-medicinal means of birth control; however, the inclusion of



LETTERS

the diaphragm should not preclude the inclusion of the Pill for the reasons noted above, namely that for many women the Pill serves other purposes than birth control.

The issue ought to be formulated as a debate between birth control and the therapeutic uses of the Pill, not as the issue of birth control and safe sex. We believe that the distribution of condoms, gloves and dental dams (which are not currently available through Health Services or the Women's Union), should be fully subsidized by the Students' Society both as a measure of safe sex and of birth control; safe sex is a reality for all students. Nonetheless, the inclusion of the Birth Control Pill in the Health Plan is not primarily an issue of birth control; the basic therapeutic and non-reproductive function of the Pill must be recognized. As such, the inclusion of the Pill in the proposed Health Plan is not a burden to all

students for the benefit of a few; but rather the acknowledgement of the participation of all students in the maintenance of good health.

Colleen Wiegers

Lauraine Leblanc

Salimah Kassim-Lakha

On behalf of the Women's Union

Lovely example

To the Daily:

Another lovely example of shoddy "journalism," poor analysis and cheap sensationalism. The supposedly "intercepted letter" from David Duke to William Thorsell, it turns out, is nothing more than pointless satire.

Your attempt to discredit Thorsell is based on the third rule of how to win an argument: when losing, compare the other party to Adolf Hitler (or the KKK or whoever). Of course one can substitute phrases like "proudly Aryan" into Thorsell's letter and make him

sound like a fascist, but one could do this with anyone.

David Duke is a fool, as was Hitler; but Thorsell posits some interesting ideas that deserve a serious reply. I don't know, because the reaction in your paper did not deal in any way with what he was saying.

I cannot see how this foolish, offensive attempt at satire represents in any way a "public service." Self-indulgent bullshit is what it is.

Iron John may be a stupid book, but I'll bet Bly doesn't compare feminists to Hermann Goering; that is I'll bet he made an attempt to discuss, enlighten, analyse, convince. Whether or not he's full of shit.

Greg Alton
Humanistic Studies U3

ed. note: Chris Barringer, your letter exceeds our 300 word limit. Please come down and chop it down.

HYDE PARK

Students political tourists in El Salvador

Opinion by Paulo Bilezikjian and Jorge Pasalacqua:

We would like to say a few words about the recent trip to El Salvador (Peace Mission, Crusade, whatever you choose to call it) from which some of our fellow students recently returned. Indeed, these well-intentioned members of Brancalone's Army, not content with the state of disarray which predominates in this country's political structure, decided to pursue a more difficult and challenging endeavour: Political tourism.

Political Tourism. c.n. euphem. 1. Ethnocentric bourgeois activity which consists of travelling to exotic destinations in order to "liberate" the aboriginal populations. 2. Type of vacation preferred to "politically conscious" citizens or people who do not live in the mediocrity and selfishness of common mortals. 3. Self-fulfilling prophecy. 4. See Scouts. 5. See Mother Teresa. Syn. (Fran) NAIVETE.

The press coverage of the case which presently occupied our attention is symptomatic of the dire state of the media in this country. It is a chronic problem and a well-known fact that most of the Canadian press concentrates its attention on utterly irrelevant issues like the one at hand. It was reported by the press that our tourists accidentally found themselves in a war zone and from this two conclusions are possible: either it was a case of sheer stupidity or the accident was not so accidental. What was the purpose of such a trip, in any case? We would expect University students to be wiser rather than to embark in an adventure that risked their lives in a very serious way and probably caused more harm (in

terms of reprisals, etc) than anything else, to the local population.

We do not regard this incident as being completely negative or puerile. Certainly one of the positive outcomes of the affair is that McGill's student body now counts with resident experts on political tourism. So, if your life is void of meaning, characterless or plainly boring, put some spice in it! Meet interesting people, discover exotic and exciting places, you might even get arrested and become a hero!

We do not mean to discourage constructive and intelligent involvement with Third World issues, but the attitude inherent to political tourism is definitely self-defeating.

The impression we got is that, suddenly, misery was found to exist, a great discovery. Of course, the anonymous oppressed hero, the people, was also discovered. Facing the facts: it is beyond doubt that the Salvadorean people's cause is just and deserves our support, but there is no room for the messianism and arrogance that some of our tourists have been displaying.

It is absolutely clear to us that a few opportunists and charlatans took advantage of well-intentioned and good-hearted people, to lure them into taking part or supporting this tragicomedy.

P.S. We already know the kind of criticism we will be subjected to: we are fascist pigs and reactionary servants of imperialism and international capitalism, and surely we are undermining Humanity's future. So, do not bother telling us.

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Black Robe parrots colonial myths

by Ardith Walkem

"It's racist and prejudicial, and some people who go to see this movie are so naïve that they actually believe it," an Abenaki woman said after seeing Bruce Beresford's *Black Robe*.

The reaction of "Canada" to the movie has been remarkably different. *Black Robe* was the hit at the Festival of Festivals in Toronto just a few weeks ago, and reaped rave reviews in Montréal. The movie also received the Genie nomination, including a nomination for "Best Picture."

Black Robe is guised as a portrayal of relations between First Nations and Europeans in 1684 Québec.

The film follows a group of Algonquin who have agreed to escort a Jesuit missionary, Father Laforgue (played by Lothare Bluteau), to a Huron mission 1500 miles upriver. Accompanying Father Laforgue — who the Algonquin have dubbed "Black Robe" because of his priestly get up — is Daniel (Aden Young), a young French man, who starts out with priestly aspirations.

The movie relies heavily upon stereotypes of the brutal and blood-thirsty savage. Father Laforgue has his finger slowly sawed off with a dull clam shell; a woman drowns in her own blood after being slashed across the throat with an arrow; a little boy has his throat slit.

Coincidentally, all of the violence occurs at the hands of the Iroquois — an important fact, considering that the film was shot during the Oka crisis and the Mohawk nation is a member of the Iroquois Confederacy. The man who tortures the captured Father Laforgue is actually wearing a headdress which is the mark of a War Chief in the Mohawk nation.

Father Laforgue at one point observes that First Nations people "plan nothing and think only of hunting, food...". He parrots the popular anthropological myth of the hunter-gatherer who exists in an animal-like state of nature, too preoccupied with survival to develop a culture or political society.

Black Robe depicts none of the political, economic or justice systems of the First Na-



tions involved. This "white washing" within popular culture provides a justification for genocide by suggesting that Europeans did First Nations a favour; they imposed order onto our animal-like existence, by saving us from being savages.

This movie is not about First Nations-European relations. Instead, it is about European society justifying the genocide of First Nations with the myth that we have no order or structure within our societies. This same myth allows the Canadian government today to prevent First Nations from exercising any form of sovereignty other than a limited form of municipalization, which they try to pass off as "self-government."

What about women?

Sandrine Holt, an Asian woman, plays the role of Annuka. Annuka is the daughter of Chomina (August Schellenberg), one of the Algonquin leaders. During the course of the movie Annuka and Daniel become lovers.

The people responsible for casting seem to believe that "those ignorant Indian women can't act." Thank God that with a little bit of make-up and an audience that is generally ignorant of First Nations people, an Asian woman will do in a pinch.

The decision to hire an Asian woman who

does not even remotely resemble a First Nations woman reflects a racist assumption that First Nations women are not competent enough to play themselves. Certainly there is no lack of First Nations actresses. The First Nations theatre groups that abound all across Canada — including Sen Klip, Native Earth Performing Arts, Red Thunder and De-Ba-Jeh-Mu-Jig — can attest to this.

The sex scenes between First Nations people in *Black Robe* have also been the focus of a lot of criticism. First Nations people have called these scenes "hateful" and "bestial," and have generally agreed the scenes are insulting and degrading.

There is no intimacy in the portrayal of sex that occurs between First Nation men and women. One has to wonder why these scenes were included — especially given the context of the rest of the movie which sought to portray First Nations people as animals. The only intimacy occurs in the relationship between Annuka and Daniel.

The sex scenes are only a part of the way *Black Robe* portrays relationships between First Nations men and women. First Nations women are seldom heard from, and are consistently shown only in roles which directly support the physical survival of the males in the film. They skin game. They cook. They build tents. Women are never shown having

an active role in the decision-making processes of their nations.

"*Black Robe* was very degrading to women," as one Abenaki woman says. "They didn't show women in any type of roles at all, except for being screwed like dogs and having babies."

The absence of women is glaringly obvious in a scene where the Iroquois take Father Laforgue and his entourage as prisoners. The Iroquois men are portrayed deciding the fate of prisoners with no involvement or even physical presence of women.

This portrayal of First Nations women is in sharp contrast to the actual role of women within First Nations. First Nations universally respect the power and strength of women; this realization is reflected in all aspects of a nation's economic, political and cultural organization.

This film is dangerous for what it does not show. It presents the ideal of the noble priest who manages to control his lust in the service of god. This portrayal is a lie. Shocking testimonies of sexual abuse are now coming forward from First Nations people who were abused as children at residential schools set up by missionaries of all denominations.

An Algonquin woman asked when she came out of the theatre, "Where are all of the Black Robes raping little boys?"

Thousands of First Nations people have had their lives ripped apart because of the sexual assault that occurred at the hands of the missionaries. A Cree man who saw the film observed that the filmmakers "did not show the badness of their own religion."

Projects such as *Black Robe* deserve heavy criticism because they legitimize the pain and destruction that has been imposed on First Nations by Euro-Canadians. First Nations issues only ever hit the mainstream in projects controlled by other people. It is almost impossible for First Nations to tell our own stories. *Black Robe* is one in a long line of projects which appropriate and muffle our voices: our tongues are cut out and served as an eight-dollar delicacy with popcorn.

GRE manuals expose cultural bias

How to Prepare for the GRE (BARRONS)

Literature in English (Research and Education Association)

While your friends are enjoying the latest best-seller, you may find yourself frantically skimming the GRE preparation manuals, visions of American graduate schools dancing in your head.

The Graduate Record Exams (GREs) test "general ability" (in the form of analytical, mathematical and verbal questions), and also expertise in your "subject area." Most American graduate schools ask for GRE scores as an important part of your application, although the testing board encourages them not to consider the scores in isolation, but rather as part of an application portfolio.

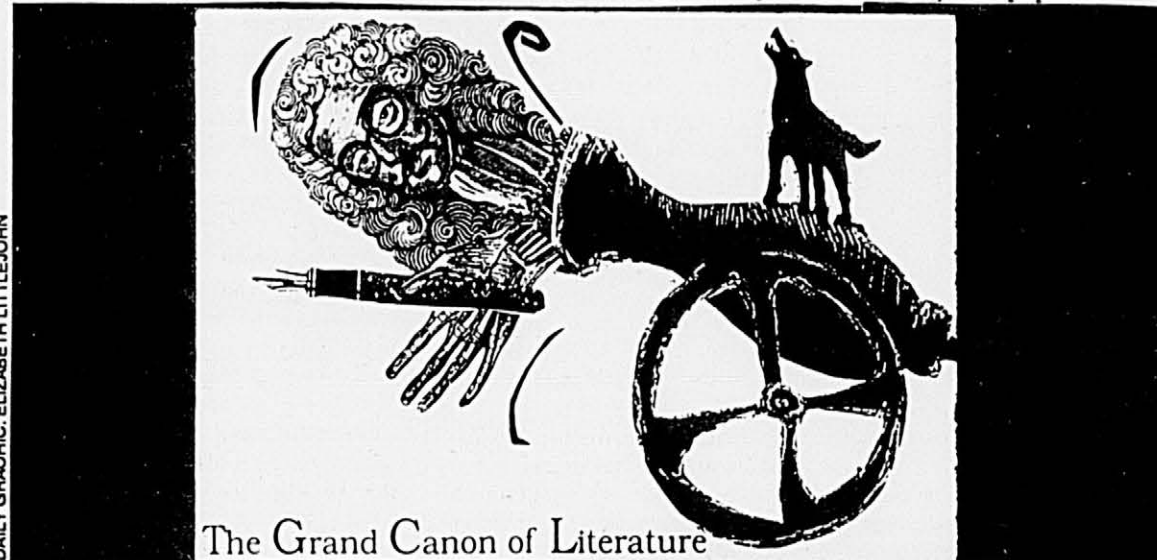
The GRE preparation manuals are a good alternative to expensive preparation courses. At a hefty \$44 U.S. to register for each exam, any financial break is welcome. While some of the suggestions in the manuals seem self-evident ("read the questions carefully"), much of

the information is valuable. For the General Test, Barrons Educational Service provides vocabulary lists, practice questions in logic and analytical skills and a comprehensive math review.

The official GRE information says the exams do not test "inherent intellectual capacity," or assess "creativity, motivation, perseverance, or social worth." A read-through of Research and Education Association's Subject Test Manual for Literature in English (only one example of a subject test) confirms the truth of this statement.

The manual boasts a comprehensive collection of literary trivia, some of which actually refer to works actually studied in undergraduate English literature degrees.

The questions in this manual serve as a reminder that the best minds of the century did not hone their skills on multiple choice. Not to mention the wide cultural scope, which (in addition to the expected questions about literature in Eng-



land) extends all the way from New Jersey to California. Canadians may be nonplussed that their literature is virtually missing. But they should note that one of the trial exams published in the REA manual had a question where "Margaret Atwood" was a possible response (although it was not the correct answer).

In the midst of all of this cramming, you may begin to wonder why you are writing these exams at all. They are obviously fraught with problems. While standardized testing has been under fire for some time, it seems that the GRE examining board has not heard the clamour of the debate. The test makes "it possible to compare stu-

dents with different backgrounds," according to the official information's optimist account, because a given score "has the same meaning whether earned by a student at a small, private liberal arts college or by a student at a large public university."

While the information booklet mentions the "special care" required in interpreting the scores of students "who may have had an educational and cultural experience somewhat different from that of the traditional majority," it fails to explain how such "special care" is actually practised. Also dubious is the attempt to compare the performance of a wide range of people with a single exam.

The GRE preparation manuals are useful for finding out what you don't know. If you don't happen to belong to the same cultural context as those who wrote the questions, or if the test doesn't represent your studies at the undergraduate level, you can improve your test scores simply by absorbing a few tactics of the immortal exam form known as "multiple guess."

As reading material, of course, the GRE manuals are rather dismal. I'd much rather buy the new Linda McQuaig book, even though I know that there won't be a question about it on the exam.

— Carrie Hintz

McGill researchers discover pain in the brain

by Joel Harrison

Scientists at the Montréal Neurological Institute have shed new light on the origins of pain.

Researchers used a Positron Emission Tomography machine (PET) to discover that the sensation of pain is generated in a different part of the brain than was previously believed.

Pain was once thought to be a sensation of the same part of the brain that manages unconscious functions, such as heartbeat and the coordination of muscle movement. But a recent discovery at the Montréal Neurological Institute suggests that pain derives from the cortex, the same part of the brain thought is derived from.

"This breakthrough was the first evidence that a cortical, as opposed to a subcortical, brain structure is involved," said Shawn Merritt, a graduate student involved in the pain research.

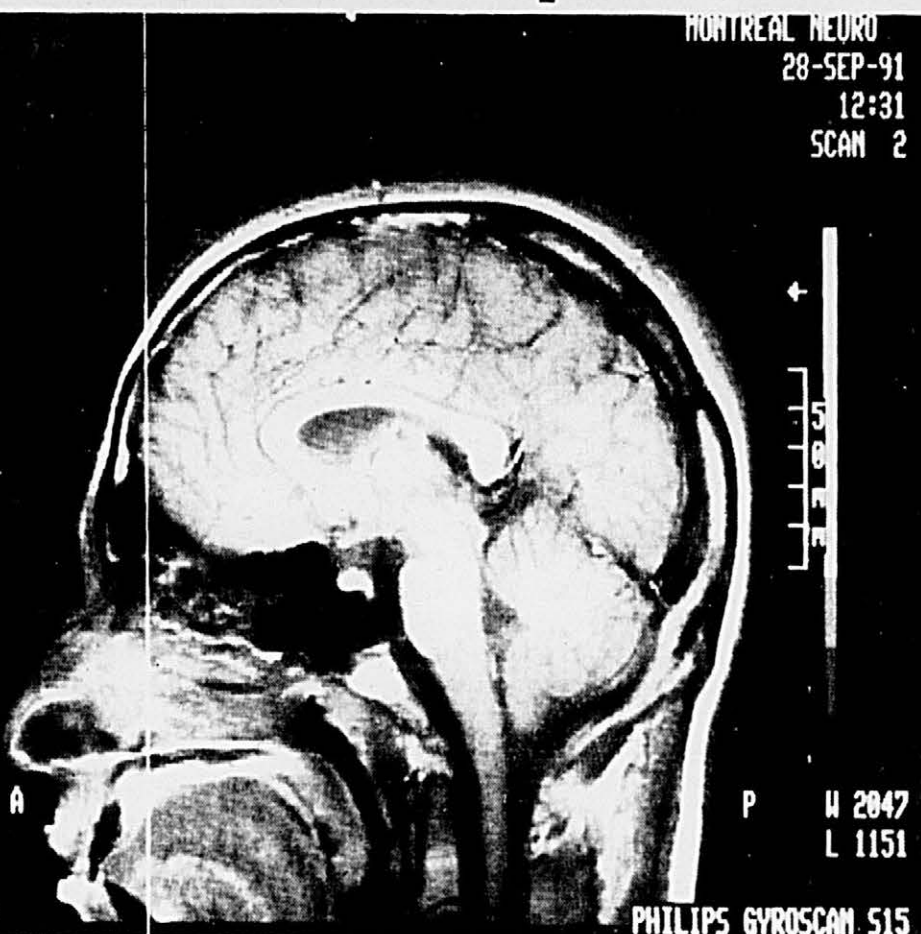
The experiment that resulted in the discovery involved putting a heat point on the arm of a subject at 42 degrees Celsius, just below the threshold of pain, and mapping brain activity using the PET. The temperature was then raised above

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the threshold of pain and another map is created. By comparing the two maps, researchers found which areas of the brain are activated by the pain.

The PET is able to detect brain

activity by monitoring the amount of glucose and oxygen taken up by different parts of the brain.

Before a PET scan, subjects are injected with radioactive glucose or radioactive oxygen.

Many people have reservations about having radioactive substances circulating through their blood stream, especially in the brain.

But Dr. Alan Evans, Head of the Tomography Facility at the Mont-

réal Neurological Institute, assures us that the rapid decay of the substances make them completely safe.

"There is more danger in having the needle put in your arm than in the radioactive material."

PET can be used in identifying brain tumors, which have a very high metabolic rate of activity. A radioactive tracer will accumulate in the tumor area and "light up like a christmas tree," said Dr. Evans.

Another use of PET at the Montréal Neurological Institute is in cognitive activation work, the study of which regions of the brain are involved in particular types of thought and perception.

PET has also been used in the pinpointing of various psychiatric dysfunctions including; dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and collenergic dysfunctions.

The PET is an advancement of the older and less technologically advanced CT-scan, better known as a "CAT-scan," which takes a simple picture of the brain. A CT-scan does not detect life processes. The CT scan of a living person is identical to that of a dead person. The PET image of a dead person would be a blank screen.

Environmental crisis exaggerated?

by Daniel Koffler

Environmental problems are exaggerated by the media, says a McGill scientist who recently said the greenhouse effect may not be as damaging as the mainstream media says.

"In my opinion most of the environmental issues are bullshit," Physics professor Richard Stevenson recently told his 200-level Physics class.

Some scientists view the greenhouse effect crisis as a product of selectively read and oversimplified scientific data, created by zealous journalists trying to sell sensationalist copy.

Scientific opinions vary, of course. The International Conference on the Changing Atmosphere has called the greenhouse effect "the next most serious threat after nuclear war."

Robert Hornung, of the Friends of the Earth environmentalist group, said there is a fairly strong consensus in the scientific community that global warming will happen. What is being debated is only how fast it will happen, and how bad it will be.

"The uncertainty in the environmental science works both ways. The hole in the ozone layer surprised everyone," Hornung said.

"Not a single scientist predicted it happening on this scale, and this fast."

Other scientists, meanwhile, challenged the reliability of statistical models used to predict changes in the world environment, saying they are inaccurate and that no immediate conclusions can be drawn from them.

Stevenson said, "Statistical analysis and computer simulations are not science."

Stevenson joins many American and Canadian scientists who decry the environmental movement's concerns.

Penelope Boston, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, was also quick to suggest the models have a very limited scope.

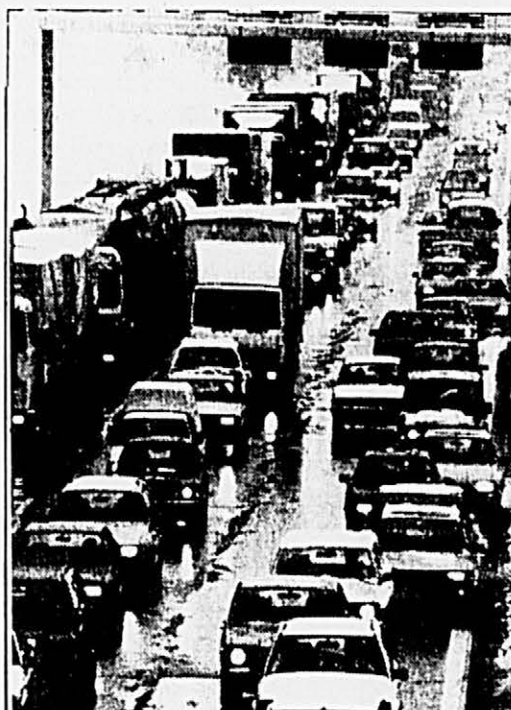
"We have theories about certain parts of the behavior of oceans, and

we have theories about certain parts of the behaviour of the atmosphere. But we have no way of doing a computer model for the interactions between oceans and atmosphere. What I suspect is that the subtle interactions elude our grasp," Boston said.

McGill Geography professor Ian McKendry agreed, saying that as the scientific models for studying environmental problems become more sophisticated, the greenhouse effect seems less catastrophic than first imagined.

But Hornung said environmental problems still need society's attention.

"We can't use uncertainty of timing as an excuse for inaction, especially when the risks are so great."



The auto: still a major source of greenhouse gases

Greenhouse theory not untrue

The greenhouse effect is a term used to describe the natural process by which the planet retains heat. Carbon dioxide and other trace gases like methane and chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) allow energy radiating from the sun to enter the biosphere, and heat the planet surface.

But these greenhouse gases do not allow the heat to be reflected back into space in the form of infrared radiation. This process created and maintains the viable environment in which we live.

The greenhouse effect, however, has come to mean the radical warming of the earth's atmosphere. Since the Industrial Revolution, the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases have significantly increased. This has some scientists worried.

The past decade may have had some uncharacteristically hot spells which would seem to support the greenhouse theory. But scientists say it is still too early to determine if this is a definite trend. In the '70s there was a similar scare, when people thought the world was heading into another "little ice age."

The basic assumption is not untrue; the more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the greater the chance the climate will change in some way. No one can be sure of anything in this field. For example, as the temperatures rise due to an increase in carbon dioxide, a certain type of algae starts reproducing at a much higher rate and consumes significant amounts of the carbon dioxide, thus cooling the earth.

The oceans are one large carbon dioxide storage tank which holds about 90 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide, and which absorbs and releases the gas in ways no one really understands.

According to Environment Canada, human-induced production of carbon dioxide amounts to 22 billion tons a year, but this is only 0.033 per cent of the atmospheric total.

Environmentalists say we must start decreasing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions immediately. Most are against the use of nuclear power as a substitute for the burning of fossil fuels. Robert Hornung, of Friends of the Earth, says that increasing fuel efficiency could reduce carbon dioxide emissions the same amount as switching to nuclear power — at one-seventh the cost.

Hornung also supports the promotion of renewable energy sources world-wide through small-scale hydro projects and more research funding for solar and wind powered electricity production.

Of the \$1 billion which the Canadian government spends yearly on energy programs, renewable power only received about three per cent and only one-half of one per cent went to solar power projects. The viability of such power projects is apparent; 10 per cent of California's electricity is wind generated.

— Daniel Koffler

"What I suspect is that the subtle interactions elude our grasp."

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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The Pillar's deadline for fiction and poetry submissions is Wednesday, October 16 at 17h00. The deadline for science, features, graphics and photography is Monday, October 21 at 17h00. Please bring material to 3479 Peel, third floor. Submissions may be in French or English.

Animal Rights Day. Wed. Oct. 16, 10-4:00 Room 107/8, Union Building. Info., books, t-shirts, videos, and a raffle for cruelty-free beauty products. Groups from across Montréal will be represented. META 345-5679.

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COUNCIL BRIEFS

Council blew big bucks

VP Finance Bukhman said at Thursday's council meeting that last year's council had overspent their budget by several hundred thousand dollars. Last year's council had also allowed Students' Society reserves to fall "dangerously low."

Bukhman presented Students' Society budget for the 1991-92 year. Council will have a week to study the budget before voting.

Health plan to go to vote

Council voted to send the Students' Society executive's Student Health Plan proposal to referendum. Oral contraceptives will now be automatically included in the plan if it is passed by referendum.

Campus mag investigated

Grad student Daron Westman notified council that a management undergraduate magazine containing both explicitly sexist and homophobic material had been distributed on campus. Westman requested council members look into the matter immediately.

Hiring and firing

Clubs rep Julie Dzerowicz asked President Scott Mitic why Students' Society continues to pay former Society Executive Director Don

McGarrigle ten months after the termination of his contract. Mitic said Students Society had very few options.

Because McGarrigle was jointly hired by the Society and the University, the Society executive had to follow University firing procedures. Society executive members said they followed those procedures. But the university disagrees, said Mitic.

"Until we resolve this dispute it appears we will continue to pay Mr. McGarrigle," Mitic said.

Dzerowicz later asked about university involvement in the hiring of the new Sadie's manager. Mitic said the Society and the university were currently renegotiating their letter of agreement, which includes procedures on staff employment.

"The university has violated the letter of agreement, therefore the letter is no longer valid," Mitic said.

Dzerowicz also asked why the Students' Society didn't sue the university.

"Nothing would make me happier than to sue the university, but unfortunately we are unable because we aren't incorporated," Mitic said.

EVENTS

The McGill Women's Union meets today. Union 423 at 17h30. Info: 284-4264.

All Lesbians and Gays are welcome to a general meeting of GALOM. New members and women are especially encouraged to attend. Union 435 at 19h30. Info: 398-6822.

Amnesty International is holding a meeting in the wake of their enormously successful conference on refugees. Union 435 at 18h30. Info: 286-0502.

Does international peace interest you? Participate in the Citizens' Inquiry into Peace and Security, a forum intended to gather opinions on the nation's military policies. The *raging Grannies*, an association of elderly women against militarization, will perform (Rap music, dance and preach) for the Inquiry. At the Grand Seminaire, 2065 Sherbrooke W. 9h-17h. Info: 486-3215. FREE

Assaults

continued from page 1

commands like, "Get your hands off me."

Women's self defense courses are offered at McGill and at several locations around Montréal. These courses teach physical techniques of defense, as well as discussing and developing mental attitudes towards assault.

Assailants expect women to be helpless, said Gallagher-Mackay. Show them that you're not helpless.

If you have any information please contact the police at 911 or the Walk Safe Network at 398-6823. Walk Safe members leave the McLennan library every night 15 minutes before closing. Refreshments are served.

McGill Women's Union presents
The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir
appearing with
McGill Improv
Tuesday, October 15, 1991.

Proceeds from the show will go to **CHEZ DORIS**, a Women's First Line Resource Referral Centre. The show will begin at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. Tickets will go on sale at 7 p.m. Beer will be available at the show.

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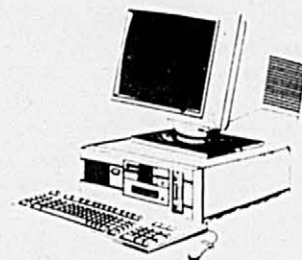
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